

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Ten new sheets of drawings are enclosed and are identified as "Replacement Sheets."

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the current application. In an office action dated March 24, 2006 ("Office Action"), the Examiner objected to claims 6-10 and 22-26 under 37 C.F.R § 1.83(a). The Examiner rejected claims 6-10 and 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph and rejected claims 1-5, 11-21, and 27-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious under Chan et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,641,455 ("Chan"). Additionally, in three separate rejections based on Examiner's personal knowledge, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 18, and 19, as well as claims 17-32, and claims 11-16 and 27-32.

With regards to the 37 C.F.R § 1.83(a) objections, Applicant has added Figures 1B-1D under 37 C.F.R § 1.83(c) to more clearly and concisely reflect what Applicant regards as his invention.

With regards to the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejections, Applicant's representative has cancelled claims 9, 10, 25, and 26. Applicant's representative respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 6-8 and 22-24. Applicant's representative believes that the subject matter claimed in claims 6-8 and 22-24 is described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the claimed invention.

Amended claim 6 is provided below:

6. The entertainment-object station of claim 1 wherein the entertainment-object holder comprises a plastic bin.

Claims 7 and 8 are provided below:

7. The entertainment-object station of claim 1 wherein the entertainment-object holder comprises a net.
8. The entertainment-object station of claim 1 wherein the entertainment-object holder comprises a basket.

Beginning on line 18 of page 3, the specification teaches that the toy station 102 includes support legs 106-109 with nubs, such as nub 118, for holding toys. Beginning on line 25 of page 3, the specification states that, in alternate embodiments, a net, basket, plastic bins, and other types of containers associated with

the toy station 102 can be used for storing toys. Additionally, replacement drawing sheets 2-4 of 10, labeled "Figures 1B-1D," show a toy station 102 with a net, a basket, and a plastic bin, respectively. Because the subject matter is both recited in the text and shown in the Figures 1B-1D, Applicant's representative believes that amended claim 6 and claims 7 and 8 should be allowed. Additionally, since amended claim 22 and claims 23 and 24 contain similar language to amended claim 6 and claims 7 and 8, amended claim 22 and claims 23 and 24 should likewise be allowed.

With regards to the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections, Applicant's representative has cancelled claims 2 and 18, amended independent claims 1 and 17, and added new independent claim 33 to more clearly and concisely reflect what Applicant regards as his invention. Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 1, 3-5, 11-17, 19-21, and 27-32.

Independent claim 1 is provided below:

1. An entertainment-object station comprising:
an entertainment-object holder;
a plurality of entertainment-object-station substrates, visually associable with the entertainment-object station, removably mounted to the entertainment-object holder; and
a plurality of entertainment objects, each entertainment object permanently affixed to an entertainment-object-station substrates.

Claim 1 has been amended to include a plurality of entertainment-object-station substrates (202), as supported by the specification beginning on line 8 of page 4. Claim 1 has also been amended to claim a plurality of entertainment objects (204), with each entertainment object (204) being permanently affixed to an entertainment-object-station substrate (202), as supported by the specification beginning on line 15 of page 4.

Under MPEP § 2143.03:

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, **all the claim limitations** must be taught or suggested by the prior art. (emphasis added)

Chan discloses a themed toy play set (1 in Figures 1-3) with a body portion (3) that includes a work bench (5) and an attached tool rack (7). Toys (25, 33,

35, 37, 39, 41) can be hung from holders (9) that are attached to the tool rack (7). The holders (9) include sensors that electrically or electromagnetically interact with a specific toy (25, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41) to cause a particular sound to be emitted when the toy (25, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41) is removed or replaced from a particular holder (9).

The requirements for establishing obviousness under MPEP § 2143.03 are not met because not all of the claim limitations contained within claim 1 are taught or suggested by Chan. The toys (25, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41) disclosed by Chan are removably attached to a plurality of holders (9) attached to a tool rack (7), whereas each entertainment object (204) claimed in amended claim 1 is permanently affixed to a entertainment-object-station substrate (202). As shown in Figure 1 of the Chan application and recited in the text, beginning on line 39 of column 3, the tool rack (7) comprises a number of holders (9) sized to fit particular play items (25, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41). Beginning on line 53 of column 3, the Chan application states that play items (25, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41) may be placed in specific designated holders (9). Accordingly, the Chan device utilizes a plurality of holders (9) to removably attach a plurality of toys (25, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41) to a single tool rack (7).

Conversely, in claim 1 a single entertainment object (204) is permanently affixed to each entertainment-object-station substrate (202). Accordingly, claim 1 recites entertainment objects (204) being permanently affixed to entertainment-object substrates (202) and also recites a single entertainment object (204) being affixed to each entertainment-object-station substrate (202). Because Chan neither teaches nor suggests permanently affixing toys (25, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41) to holders (9) and neither teaches nor suggests attaching a single toy (25, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41) to a holder (9), the requirements for establishing obviousness under MPEP § 2143.03 are not met.

Amended claim 17 is provided below:

17. (currently amended) A method of entertainment-object management, the method comprising:

providing an entertainment-object station that includes an entertainment-object holder, a plurality of entertainment-object-station substrates, visually associable with the entertainment-object station and a plurality of entertainment objects;

permanently affixing each entertainment object to an entertainment-object substrate;

removably mounting the entertainment-object substrates with permanently affixed entertainment objects to the entertainment-object holder; and
 placing the entertainment-object station in a location; and
 maintaining the entertainment-object station by
 periodically replacing one or more stale entertainment objects,
 periodically replacing recalled entertainment objects,
 periodically replacing broken entertainment objects, and
 periodically adding new entertainment objects.

Claim 17 contains language similar to the amended portions of claim 1, and is also not obvious under Chan for the same reasons as claim 1. Additionally, claim 17 is not obvious under Chan because Chan neither teaches nor suggests several elements recited in claim 17, including placing the entertainment-object station in a location, and maintaining the entertainment-object station by periodically replacing recalled entertainment objects, periodically replacing broken entertainment objects, and periodically adding new entertainment objects. Because dependent claims 3-5, 11-16, 19- 21, and 27-32 include the language of independent claims 1 and 17, dependent claims 3-5, 11-16, 19-21, and 27-32 are likewise not obvious under Chan.

Applicant additionally has added new independent claim 33 to more clearly and concisely reflect what Applicant regards as his invention. New independent claim 33 is provided below:

33. An entertainment-object station comprising:
 a plurality of entertainment-object-station substrates, each entertainment-object-station substrate visually associable with the entertainment-object station;
 a plurality of entertainment objects, each entertainment object permanently affixed to an entertainment-object-station substrate; and
 a means for removably attaching entertainment-object substrates to the entertainment-object station.

Claim 33 claims a plurality of entertainment-object-station substrates, visually associable with the entertainment-object station, as supported by the specification beginning on line 6 of page 4. Claim 33 also claims a plurality of entertainment objects, each entertainment object permanently affixed to the entertainment-object-station substrates, as supported by the specification beginning on line 15 of page 4. Claim 33 further claims a means for removably attaching

entertainment-object substrates to the entertainment-object station, as supported by the specification beginning on line 18 of page 3, and also beginning on line 25 of page 3.

In the Office Action, the Examiner additionally rejected claims 2, 3, 18, and 19, stating that the claimed invention fails to specifically recite how disinfectant is physically related to an entertainment object station. As discussed above, Applicant's representative has cancelled claims 2 and 18. With regards to claims 3 and 19, replacement drawing sheets 1-4 of 10, labeled "Figures 1A-1D," show a toy station 102 with a disinfectant-wipe dispenser 110 on the top surface 104. Additionally, the text recites the existence of the disinfectant-wipe dispenser 110, beginning on line 14 of page 3, and the usage of the disinfectant-wipe dispenser 110, beginning of line 21 of page 3. Additionally, Examiner states that, in the Examiner's opinion, disinfectant is typically available at or near play stations because of the issues of cleanliness and disease prevention.

According to MPEP § 2144.03:

When a rejection is based on facts within the personal knowledge of the examiner, the data should be stated as specifically as possible, and the facts must be supported, when called for by the applicant, by an affidavit by the examiner.

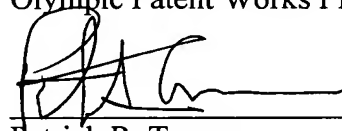
Under MPEP § 2144.03, Applicant's representative respectfully requests that the Examiner provide the Applicant with an affidavit to support the Examiner's personal knowledge as to the typical availability of disinfectant at or near play stations because of the issues of cleanliness and disease prevention.

In the Office Action, Examiner additionally rejects claims 17-32, stating that, in the Examiner's opinion, the steps of maintaining play objects are well known in environments such as preschools and day-care centers. As discussed above, Applicant's representative has amended claim 17 and cancelled claim 18. Under MPEP § 2144.03, Applicant's representative respectfully requests that the Examiner provide the Applicant with an affidavit to support the Examiner's personal knowledge as to the steps involved in maintaining play objects in environments such as preschools and day-care centers.

In the Office Action, Examiner additionally rejects claims 11-16 and 27-32, stating that in the Examiner's opinion, although not mentioned in Chan, the various substrate and station features claimed in claims 11-16 and 27-32 are well known in the art of educational toys and play environments. Under MPEP § 2144.03, Applicant's representative respectfully requests that the Examiner provide the Applicant with an affidavit to support examiners personal knowledge of how well known the various substrate and station features claimed in claims 11-16 and 27-32 are known in the art of educational toys and play environments.

In Applicant's representative's opinion, all of the claims in the current application are clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Bamesberger
Olympic Patent Works PLLC



Patrick R. Turner
Registration No. 49,050

Enclosures:

Postcard
Transmittal in duplicate
Redline Drawings
Formal Drawings

Olympic Patent Works PLLC
P.O. Box 4277
Seattle, WA 98194-0277
206.621.1933 telephone
206.621.5302 fax